

BRIAN GRIFFITHS

RESOLUTION #: SJ002

POSITION: OPPOSED

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy King
Chair, Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee
Annapolis, MD 21041

Dear Madam Chair and members of the Committee

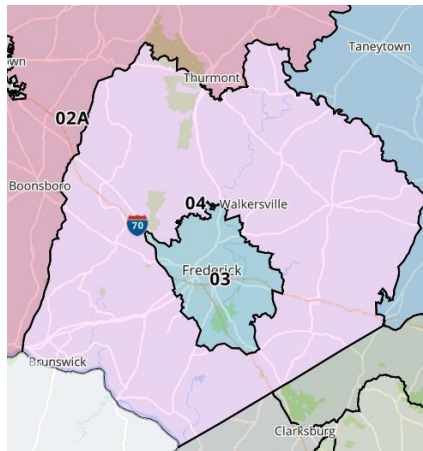
This is all a joke, right?

For months, I and many other Marylanders said that the Maryland Legislative Redistricting Commission would create a heavily gerrymandered legislative map that benefits Democrats at the expense of African-Americans, Asian-Americans, women, and Republicans. And I was right. Political, racial, gender, and socioeconomic equality have again been sacrificed at the altar of power.

It feels necessary to once again cite from Article III, Section IV of the State Constitution:

SEC. 4. Each legislative district shall consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of substantially equal population. Due regard shall be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions (amended by Chapter 432, Acts of 1900, ratified Nov. 5, 1901; Chapter 20, Acts of 1922, ratified Nov. 7, 1922; Chapter 99, Acts of 1956, ratified Nov. 6, 1956; Chapter 785, Acts of 1969, ratified Nov. 3, 1970; Chapter 363, Acts of 1972, ratified Nov. 7, 1972).

No unbiased observer can look at this legislative map and say that it meets the requirements under our state Constitution. For example, explain how this donut in Frederick is “compact in form”.



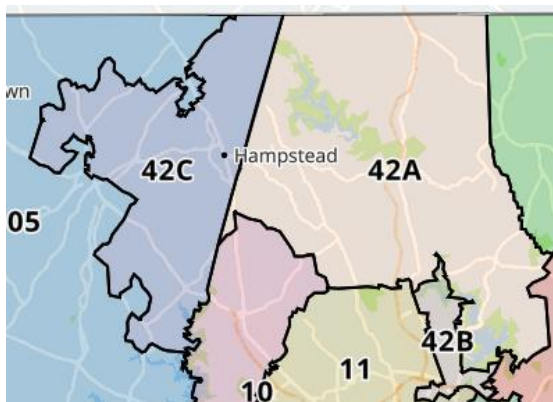
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I'm not sure I've ever seen something so bizarre in a legislative district before. District 4 just surrounds the City of Frederick. Why is this done? Because it makes it more likely that the Democrats can sweep the Senate seat and all three Delegate Seats in District 3 due to all of the Montgomery County transplants up in greater Frederick.

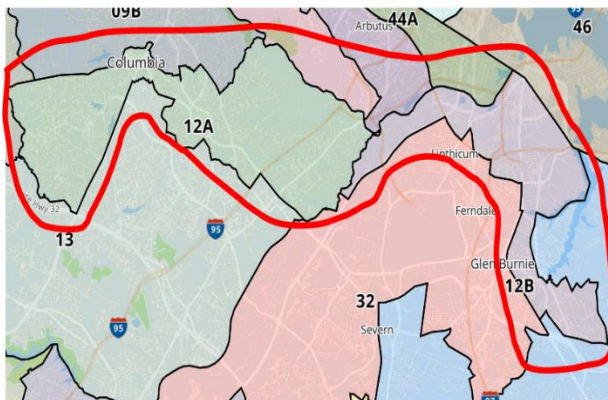
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The new District 42 in Baltimore and Carroll Counties is a meandering mess.



It's hard to imagine the hubris of the partisans on this Commission trying to connect areas north of Westminster with parts of Towson inside the Beltway and trying to pass it off as "compact in form" and created with due regard given to "natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions?"

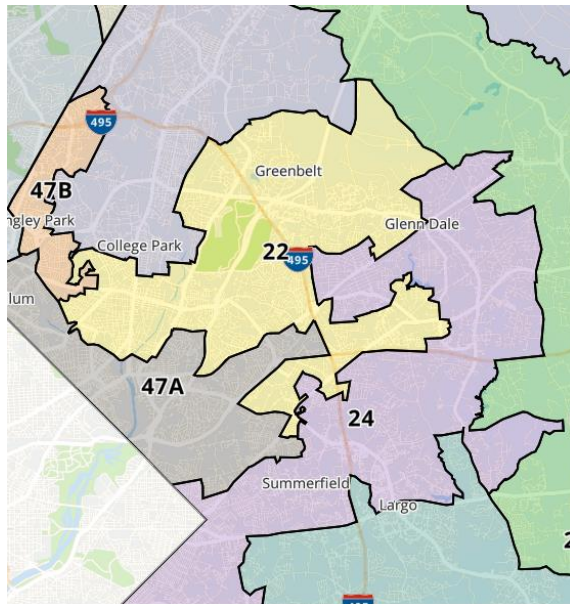
The District 12 senate District is a boomerang district that connects Central Howard County through Columbia all the way to Glen Burnie and parts of Pasadena. It took a lot of work and political gamesmanship to create a district this narrow to connect these areas together



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We're also treated to this mess in Prince George's County, where District 24 is mapped as a seahorse and District 22 looks like the Notre Dame Fighting Irish logo.



Look, these districts are completely indefensible. There is no logic, no rationale, that can explain these districts in a way that distracts from the fact that this is radical national gerrymandering brought to the state level in way we have never seen in Maryland before.

Then there is the issue of "one person, one vote." Once again, you will the partisans on the Commission divided into subdistricts are haphazardly inserted into the map, usually to make sure that the Democratic Party has a better opportunity to pick up a few extra seats in rural areas. It is still illogical how this does not violate the idea of "One Man, One Vote". How do the members of this Commission justify that some people should be entitled to three delegates, but some people are only entitled to one?

These proposed legislative districts are an insult to Marylanders, the majority of whom want a fair and nonpartisan process. What they do not deserve is a partisan commission proposing a legislative map that is discriminatory, unfair, and unconstitutional.

Sincerely,

Brian Griffiths